

In the Claims:

1. (Currently amended) An accessory attachment for a rotary power hand tool of the type which has a housing with a substantially cylindrical nose portion, a motor having an output shaft with a mounting coupling for receiving a drive shaft extending forwardly from the nose portion, and being concentric therewith, said attachment comprising:

a housing having an output shaft configured to drive a rotating tool, said housing having an input shaft configured to couple with the drive shaft, such that ~~said~~^{the} motor output shaft, drive shaft and input shaft are aligned on a common axis, said housing having a mounting collar with a substantially cylindrical inside surface sized to slidably fit snugly on the nose portion; and

a thin annular cylindrical layer of resilient material located between said housing cylindrical inside surface and the nose portion.

2. (Currently amended) ~~An attachment as defined in claim 1 further comprising~~

An accessory attachment for a rotary power hand tool of the type which has a housing with a substantially cylindrical nose portion, a motor having an output shaft with a mounting coupling for receiving a drive shaft extending forwardly from the nose portion, and being concentric therewith, said attachment comprising:

a housing having an output shaft configured to drive a rotating tool, said housing having an input shaft configured to couple with the drive shaft, such that said motor output shaft, drive shaft and input shaft are aligned on a common axis, said housing having a mounting collar with a substantially cylindrical inside surface sized to slidably fit snugly on the nose portion;

a thin annular cylindrical layer of resilient material located between said housing cylindrical inside surface and the nose portion; and

an annular retention ring disposed axially inwardly from the end of said mounting collar on said inside surface of said mounting collar.

3. (Currently amended) An attachment as defined in claim 1 wherein said layer has a thickness within the range of about 0.6 mm to about 2.0 mm

4. (Currently amended) An attachment as defined in claim 1 wherein said layer maintains alignment of said the motor output shaft, said the drive shaft and said input shaft at rotational speeds as high as 35,000 rpm.

5. (Currently amended) An attachment as defined in claim 1 wherein said resilient material reduces vibration that is caused by misalignment of said the motor output shaft, said the drive shaft and said input shaft.

6. (Original) And attachment as defined in claim 1 wherein said resilient material obviates the need for close manufacturing tolerances.

7. (Original) An attachment as defined in claim 1 wherein said resilient material obviates the need for high manufacturing tolerances of coupling elements.

8. (Original) An attachment as defined in claim 1 wherein said housing comprises glass-filled nylon.

9. (Original) An attachment as defined in claim 1 wherein said resilient material comprises a thermoplastic elastomer.

10. (Currently amended) An attachment as defined in claim 1 wherein said resilient material is molded secured to said substantially cylindrical inside surface of said mounting collar ~~by injection molding~~.

11. (Original) An attachment as defined in claim 1 wherein said mounting collar includes a pair of slots.

12. (Original) An attachment as defined in claim 1 wherein said mounting collar comprises first and second annular flanges separated by a annular groove.

13. (Original) An attachment as defined in claim 12 further comprising an annular clamp disposed around at least a portion of said annular groove.

14. (Original) An attachment as defined in claim 1 wherein the nose portion includes an annular groove.

15. (Original) An attachment as defined in claim 1 wherein said mounting collar includes an annular rib around at least a portion of an internal circumference.

16. (Original) An attachment as defined in claim 1 wherein said mounting collar includes a radial tab extending therefrom.

17. (Currently amended) An attachment for a rotary hand tool of the type which has an outer enclosure with a nose portion, a tool holder rotating about an axis, and a bit mounted in the tool holder for engaging a work surface, the bit being of the type which has a long narrow cylindrical shape with an outer cutting surface for engaging a work piece, the cutting surface extending at least throughout a portion of the length of the bit, said attachment comprising:

housing means for receiving the nose portion;

retention means for frictionally retaining the nose portion;

locking means including an annular groove disposed around a circumference of said housing means for locking the nose portion within the housing means.

18. (Original) An attachment as defined in claim 17 wherein said retention means includes a plastic ring molded within said housing means.

19. (Original) An attachment as defined in claim 17 where said retention means includes an annular rib disposed within said housing and an annular groove disposed on the nose portion.

20. (Currently amended) An attachment as defined in claim 17

~~wherein said locking means includes an annular groove disposed around a circumference of said housing means.~~

21. (Original) An attachment as defined in claim 20 wherein said locking means includes an annular clamp configured to lockingly engage said annular groove.

22. (Original) An attachment as defined in claim 20 wherein said circumference of said housing means includes a pair of grooves.